

## **LOUISIANA PHYSICAL THERAPY BOARD**

April 10, 2014 Accepted

Proceedings for the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board, taken in special session on Thursday April 10, 2014 at 104 Fairlane Drive, Lafayette, LA 70507. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. A quorum of members was present. Board members present were: Chairman Al Moreau, Treasurer/Secretary Danny Landry, Jerry Jones, Jr., Kristina Lounsberry, Elizabeth “Beth” Austin, and Sue Bartol. Also present were Charlotte Martin, Executive Director and Courtney P. Newton, Attorney. Board Member Dr. Gerald Leglue was not present.

### **Legislative Session 2014**

An overview/background was provided about the forming of the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board Legislative Task Force. It was discussed if there should be a Legislative Task Force for a regulatory board. The Practice Act calls for the board to be involved in the protection of the public. The Legislative Task Force is also necessary for the board to remain updated on the changes in statute that will impact the regulation and practice of physical therapy. It was determined that it is necessary at this time for the board to remain involved as an information and educational source when needed in legislature. The Legislative Task Force serves to provide an efficient and timely response to urgent matters during the legislative session. At any time, three board members (maximum) are able to serve on the Legislative Committee, so there will be no quorum.

Courtney Newton and Danny Landry updated the board on meetings involving the Athletic Trainers Bill. Courtney Newton continued to discuss each Bill that might impact the practice of physical therapy and/or regulation of the practice. Al Moreau discussed his involvement with Physical Therapy Day at the legislature and the meetings that followed.

### **Legislative Task Force**

Roles/responsibilities and limitations of the Legislative Task Force were discussed. Sue Bartol expressed concerns of the board being viewed as spearheading legislative action or being considered a legislative watchdog. The board and legal counsel agreed with Sue Bartol that this is not the role of the board and is not the intention of the Legislative Task Force. The responsibility of the Legislative Task Force is to respond to pressing issues that can impact regulation and/or the practice of physical therapy that need be addressed immediately without time for a quorum. The Legislative Task Force has responsibilities to be involved because the Practice Act calls for the board to be involved in the protection of the public.

Kristina Lounsberry motioned to give the Legislative Task Force the power to 1) Monitor legislative activity; 2) consult and direct legal counsel; 3) educate the public and interested parties on board issues, policies and practices of physical therapy; and 4) attend meetings and functions as deemed appropriate. The Legislative Task Force is granted authority to act on any newly filed Bill until the next scheduled Board meeting at which time the board will vote on continued action. All action by the LTF shall be reported at regular scheduled board meetings. Jerry Jones seconded the motion. The board voted and it was passed. The motion was opposed by Sue Bartol.

### **License Renewals**

The Board Members discussed handling renewals after the March deadline/before the April expiration, since CEUs earned in April count toward the next renewal period. The board is enacting a policy to perform a CEU audit on anyone who takes CEUs in April toward renewals.

The board discussed the need for a note to be placed on the website and in licensee communication to explicitly state that licensees will need to verify that APTA courses are approved by calling the LPTA or APTA to determine that the course is “APTA-sponsored” and not “APTA-hosted.”

### **Other Board Business/Discussion**

The board was informed that the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners (LSBME) received a letter from the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board (LPTB) on April 7, 2014 requesting public records by April 10, 2014. The LPTB has not received a response from the LSBME as of yet. The purpose of the request is to determine what types of complaints the LSBME has received about PTs performing Dry Needling. Charlotte Martin will create a “General Member” on the member side of the website to upload information that all board members can have access to and review for informational purposes only, such as correspondences with the LSBME.

The Board discussed creating a task force of non-board member PTs to help identify PTs and reach out to the PT community when the board does not have enough time/resources to do so. The Board discussed revising the role/responsibilities of the Advisory Committee to fulfill this need. Charlotte Martin will work to fill the two vacant positions of the Advisory Committee and work to utilize the Advisory Committee in more meaningful ways in the future.

The Board discussed moving forward with the Executive Assistant search. Charlotte Martin is going to work with SSA to finalize the job description and begin moving forward with the search.

### **Adjournment**

The board meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.